THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 19th Day of *May* 1768.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,

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General Assembly

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SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 19th Day of *May* 1768, and concluded the 30th Day of *May* said Year.

I.

The King's Commission to *John* Earl of *Glasgow* produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1767.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable JOHN Earl of GLASGOW, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative of this Assembly; which Commission

sion was publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect. and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The Tenor whereof follows:

" GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, *Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ,*
" et *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fidei defensor. Omnibus probis
" hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ Nostrae pervenerint,
" salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiae Scotiae conventus in decimum nonum diem
" *Maii* instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in
" commodum dictae ecclesiae, ut idem generalis ecclesiae conventus, die statuto debite observetur, atque, rebus magni
" momenti Nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter
" interesse nequimus; Nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate
" et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi Nostri consanguinei *Joannis* comitis de *Glasgow*, quod ad summum munus
" postea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum usque-
" quaque sit qualificatus; Noveritis igitur Nos nominasse,
" constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti Nos, tenore præsentium,
" nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus memoratum
" *Joannem* comitem de *Glasgow*, supremum Nostrum com-
" missionarium ad effectum postea mentionat. Dando et concedendo illi plenissimam Nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram personam et authoritatem regalem repraesentandi; necnon praesentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti
" generali conventu, tanquam commissionario Nostro, ad
" hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et locum commissionarii, pro generali ecclesiae conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in
" omnibus respectibus, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi
" muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore praeterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter praesentes facere potuerimus. Quaeque omnia et singula ab antedicto *Joanne* comite de *Glasgow*, in hac Nostra commissione prosequenda, legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter
" approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis in-
" super antedictae ecclesiae et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteris, caeterisque quibuscunque, infra illam partem *Magnae*
" *Britanniae*, *Scotiam* vocat. subditis Nostris quibuscunque,
" cujuscunque gradus, seu qualitatis, ut dictum *Joannem* comitem de *Glasgow*, tanquam Nostrum supremum commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum,
" revereantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se praebeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus; atque hanc Nostram commissionem, a dicto decimo nono die *Maii* in-

" cipere,

" cipere, et deinceps hac ſubſequenti ſeſſione dicti generalis
" conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel uſque dum
" a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei teſti-
" monium, ſigillum Noſtrum per Unionis tractatum cuſto-
" diend. et in *Scotia*, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſdem u-
" tend. ordinat. praeſentibus appendi mandavimus; apud
" aulam Noſtram apud *St. James*'s, vigeſimo tertio die
" menſis *Aprilis*, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo
" ſexageſimo octavo, regnique Noſtri anno octavo. Per
" ſignaturam manus S. D. N. regis ſupraſcript."

II.

The King's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

Supraſcribitur, GEORGE *R.*

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The unwearied Attention which you have ſhown to the great Cauſe of Religion and Virtue, and the frequent Proofs we have experienced, of your Duty, Loyalty, and Affection for Our Perſon and Government, have the juſteſt Title to Our Royal Protection: It is therefore with the higheſt Satisfaction, that We renew on this Occaſion, thoſe aſſurances which We have ſo often given, of Our ſteady Reſolution to maintain and ſupport the Church of Scotland, as by Law eſtabliſhed, in the full and free Enjoyment of all her juſt Rights and Privileges.

We cannot too earneſtly recommend to you the Continuance of that Harmony, which will give Dignity to your proceedings: And that, avoiding all narrow Diſtinctions, private Animoſities, and perſonal Altercation, you confine your Deliberations to the great and laudable Work of promoting every Chriſtian Virtue, and diſcouraging every Tendency to Vice and Immorality. And you cannot render a more eſſential Service to your Country, or a more acceptable one to Me, than by inculcating the inſeparable Duties of a ſtrict Obſer-

vance of the Tenets of Our Holy Religion, and a perfect Obedience to the Laws of Our happy Conſtitution.

We have again made Choice of Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin JOHN Earl of GLASGOW, to be Ou Commiſſioner to repreſent Our Perſon in this Aſſembly; whoſe Fidelity, Zeal and Attachment We have already experienced, and who, We are convinced, will not only be acceptable, but pleaſing to you; and We cannot doubt but he will, by a ſteady Adherence to the Duties of his High Office, promote thoſe great Ends which We have ſo much at Heart. That Your Endeavours for thoſe laudable Purpoſes, may meet with the Succeſs which they deſerve, and that this preſent Meeting of the General Aſſembly, may, from your wiſe Conduct be brought to a happy Concluſion, by the moſt entire Unanimity, Cordiality, and brotherly Love amongſt all its Members, is our ſincere Wiſh. And ſo We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the 23d Day of *April* 1768, in the Eighth Year of Our Reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

(Signed) WEYMOUTH.

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in this National Aſſembly, received Your Majeſty's moſt gracious Letter, with that Reſpect which is due to ſo valuable a Proof of Your Royal Favour.

As the repeated Aſſurances your Majeſty hath given us of Your favourable Diſpoſitions toward us, and of Your Reſolution to maintain our Rights inviolated, fill our Hearts with the

the moſt ſenſible pleaſure, ſo they alſo call for our warmeſt and moſt grateful Acknowledgments.

We eſteem it our moſt diſtinguiſhed Honour, to have this Meeting countenanced with Your Royal Authority and Approbation: And happy in poſſeſſing that Confidence You are graciouſly pleaſed to repoſe in us, permit us, Great Sir, humbly to aſſure You, that we reckon ourſelves indiſpenſibly bound to inculcate upon the People committed to our Charge, a conſcientious Regard to the Laws of theſe Kingdoms, as well as to the Tenets of our holy Religion, and particularly to animate them with all thoſe Principles of Duty, and Fidelity, which are owing by Subjects to the beſt of Sovereigns.

Convinced that the great Ends of our Meeting are to promote the Intereſts of Piety and Virtue, and to diſcourage every Species of Licentiouſneſs and Vice, we ſhould be unworthy of Your gracious Favour, and of the Character we bear, if we did not labour with unremitted Zeal to advance them: And we are prompted by Intereſt, as well as Duty, to purſue theſe Ends with Vigour; being ſenſible we cannot take a more effectual Way to fulfil Your Royal Pleaſure, or recommend this Church to the ſure Protection and laſting Favour of Your Majeſty.

The unſhaken Attachment of the Earl of Glaſgow to Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government, his known Affection for this Church, and Regard for her Proſperity; and his Ability, Integrity, and Prudence, diſcovered on former Occaſions in the Diſcharge of ſo great a Truſt, render Your Majeſty's Choice of him to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, moſt pleaſing to us, and moſt acceptable to the Church of Scotland.

With all Thankfulneſs, we accept of the Renewal of Your Royal Gift, for carrying on the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands; and we ſhall endeavour to apply it with ſuch Juſtice and Prudence, as may beſt anſwer the laudable and pious End for which it is deſigned.

That the King of Kings may long preſerve Your Majeſty, the Guardian of Liberty, and the example of Piety and Virtue to Your happy People, that He may pour down his beſt bleſſings on Your Royal Conſort our moſt Gracious Queen; that the Divine Favour may ever attend his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, and all Your Royal Family; that Your Deſcendants may, till lateſt Ages, reign over a free and happy People; and that You may late exchange Your earthly for the

the Heavenly and Immortal Crown, are and ever ſhall be the fervent Prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient, and moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Name, in our Preſence,

and at our Appointment, by

Edin. 23d *May* 1768. GILBERT HAMILTON, Moderator.

IV.

Act of the Aſſembly anent the Form of Commiſſions.

THE General Aſſembly 1766, having preſcribed certain Forms of Commiſſions to Members of Aſſembly and Atteſtations thereof, and the Aſſembly 1766 having in reſpect of ſome Defects obſerved in theſe Forms, made a Supplement thereto; the General Aſſembly, now conſidering the Diſadvantage of having what belongs to the neceſſary Forms of Commiſſions and Atteſtations lying in ſeparate Acts, by which the Electors or their Clerks may be more liable to miſtakes or Omiſſions, than if the whole was laid before them in one View, did appoint both to be brought together into one Act as follows; and the Agent for the Church to cauſe print the ſame, and tranſmit Copies thereof to the ſeveral Preſbyteries, Univerſities, and Burghs.

The General Aſſembly conſidering that it is of the greateſt Importance for the Honour and Intereſt of Religion, that the Office-bearers of the Church ſhould behave and conduct themſelves in all Reſpects becoming their Character, do, in Terms of the Act of Aſſembly 22d *May* 1722, earneſtly beſeech, exhort, and require all Miniſters to take heed to themſelves, and

and to their Doctrine, and to be exemplary to their People in Sobriety, Righteousness, and Holiness, abstaining from all Appearance of Evil; And, in like manner, the General Assembly do earnestly beseech, exhort, and require the Elders and Deacons to be faithful in the Discharge of their respective Offices, tender and circumspect in their Walk, punctual in their attending upon Ordinances, strict in their Observation of the Lord's Day, and regular in keeping up the Worship of God in their Families. The Assembly do further enjoin and require, for the more regular Election of Members to the Assembly in time coming, Presbyteries, Burghs, and Universities, strictly to observe the Acts of former Assemblies, appointing that the Election shall be made at least forty Days before the Meeting of Assembly, and within a Month preceeding the first of the said forty Days, except those lying in the Northern and Western Isles, and shall appoint the Day of Election at a Meeting to be entered in their Minutes, at least ten free Days before such Election; and that on the Day of Election, they shall make their Elections betwixt the Hours of one and eight o'Clock in the Evening.

The General Assembly considering also that some Acts regulating the Manner and Time of electing Members to the Assembly are posterior to the Act 17th *May* 1725, establishing Forms of their Commissions; and that these Forms refer in general to Acts of Assembly that contain some Particulars, of which Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs, cannot have any certain Evidence, and are thereby reduced to the Necessity either of attesting what does not come properly under their own Knowledge, or of omitting Clauses in the established Form, whereby their Commissions have been rendered void and null; the Assembly did, on all these Accounts, and hereby do appoint and ordain the Forms of Commissions and Attestations, hereunto subjoined, to be observed by Presbyteries, Sessions, Universities, and Burghs; and enact and ordain, That all such Commissions and Attestations, as are not conceived and attested in these very Words of the Form now prescribed, shall be rejected.

The General Assembly do further declare and enact, That when a Kirk Session or Presbytery refuse their Concurrence or Attestation to a Commission by a Burgh or University, without assigning the Reasons of their Refusal, that Commission shall be sustained as if duly attested, in case the Matter shall be brought before the Assembly by Protest or Appeal.

Form of COMMISSIONS *by Presbyteries.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight o'Clock in the Evening, in Order to elect their Repreſentatives to the enſuing Aſſembly, purſuant to a Reſolution entered into their Minutes on the day of did, and hereby do nominate and appoint Mr Miniſter at and Mr Miniſter at and and Ruling Elders, their Commiſſioners to the next General Aſſembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the Day of next to come, or when and where it ſhall happen to ſit, willing them to repair thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the ſame, and there to conſult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before them, to the Glory of God and the Good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confeſſion of Faith, and agreeable to the Conſtitutions of this Church, as they will be anſwerable; and that they report their Diligence therein at their Return therefrom. And the ſaid Presbytery does hereby teſtify and declare, That all the Miniſters above named have ſigned the *Formula*, enjoined by the 10th Act of the Aſſembly 1711; and the Ruling Elders above written have ſigned the *Formula* preſcribed by the 11th Act of the Aſſembly 1694. And further, that the ſaid Elders are of unblemiſhed Characters, circumſpect in their Walk, regular in giving Attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Inſtitution, and behave in other Reſpects agreeable to their Office: All which the Presbytery have hereby atteſted on proper Information.

Form in the Caſe of an After-Election *of a* Commiſſioner, *in the Place of one formerly choſen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day the Presbytery of being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight in the Evening, and (here the Occaſion of the new Election to be narrated) Did, and hereby do nominate and appoint in his Place, Mr Miniſter at (or, if an Elder, Ruling Elder) their Commiſſioner to the next General Aſſembly; and do hereby teſtify and declare (if a Miniſter) that he hath ſigned the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th Act of Aſſembly 1711; or (if an Elder) that he is in all reſpects, qualified in the ſame manner

manner as their Commissioner in whose Room he is chosen, which the Presbytery hereby attests upon proper Information.

ATTESTATION.

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of having had the above Extract of their Commission to their Representatives in the ensuing Assembly laid before them, they caused it to be read, and having revised and considered the same, they did approve thereof. Attested by *A. B.* Moderator.

or Cls.

Form of COMMISSIONS *from Universities.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day, the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members of the University of having Right to elect, being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight o'-Clock in the Evening, in Order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a Resolution entered into their Minutes on the Day of did and hereby do, nominate and appoint their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the Day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the same, and there to consult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before them, to the Glory of God, and the Good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution of this Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his Diligence therein at his Return therefrom. And it is hereby testifyed and declared, That the said is a Minister, or (an Elder) of this Church, lawfully ordained, and (if a Minister) hath signed the *Formula* enjoin'd by the 10th Act of the Assembly, *anno* 1711; or (if an Elder) hath sign'd the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th Act of the Assembly 1694. And further, that the said Commissioner is every other Way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of the Assembly; and (if an Elder, it must be said) and in particular, he is of an unblemished Character, circumspect in his Walk, regular in giving Attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other Respects agreeable to his Office. All which the University have hereby attested on proper Information.

Form

Form for Universities, *in the Case of an* After-Election *of a* Commissioner, *in the Place of one formerly Chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members of the University of being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight in the Evening, and (here the Occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did and hereby do nominate and appoint in his Place their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and it is hereby testifyed and declared, that he is in all Respects qualified in the same Manner as their former Commissioner, in whose Room he is chosen, which the University attests on proper Information.

N. B. This Form for Universities is prescribed on the Supposition that the former Commissioner, and the Person chosen in his Place, are either both of them Ministers, or both of them Elders: But if an Elder is chosen in the Place of a Minister, or a Minister in the Place of an Elder, then the Attestation must contain the Words at length of the Form prescribed for the first Election.

ATTESTATION.

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of having had before them a Commission given by the University of to to represent the said University in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, do, in Terms of the 4th Act of Assembly 1720, the 7th Act of Assembly 1723, and 4th Act of Assembly 1724, testify and declare, that the said is a Minister or (an Elder) lawfully ordained; that he has signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th Act of Assembly 1711; or (if an Elder) hath signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694; and that he is a Master of the said University, or And further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by

A. B. Moderator.

Form of COMMISSIONS *from Burghs.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Magistrates and Town-Council of being conveened in Council, betwixt the Hourss of One and

and Eight o'Clock in the Evening, in order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a Resolution entered into their Minutes on the Day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint Ruling Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the Day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to sit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the Diets of the same; and there to consult, vote, and determine in all Matters that come before them, to the Glory of God, and the Good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution of this Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his Diligence therein at his Return therefrom. And it is hereby testifyed and declared, That the said is an Elder of this Church, lawfully ordained, and hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694, and is every other way qualified to be a Member of Assembly, and likewise that he is (a Residenter in the said Burgh) or (an Heretor in the said Burgh) or (an Heretor in the Bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth ly) according to the Acts of Assembly; and, in particular, that he is of an unblemished Character, circumspect in his Walk, regular in giving Attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other Respects agreeable to his Office. All which the Magistrates and Town-Council have attested on proper Information.

Form for Burghs *in the case of an* After-Election *of a* Commissioner *in the place of one formerly Chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day, the Magistrates and Town-Council of being conveened betwixt the Hours of One and Eight in the Evening, and (here the Occasion of the new Election to be narrated) Did, and hereby do nominate and appoint in his place Ruling Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and it is hereby testified and declared that the said is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heretor in the said Burgh) or (an heretor in the bounds of the presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated

officiated as an Elder in the ſaid Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh doth ly) and that he is in all other reſpects qualified in the ſame manner as their former Commiſſioner, in whoſe Room he is choſen, which the Magiſtrates and Town Council do atteſt on proper Information.

ATTESTATION *by the Kirk-Seſſion.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day the Kirk-Seſſion of having had laid before them, a Commiſſion by the Magiſtrates and Town Council of to Ruling Elder, to repreſent the ſaid Burgh in the enſuing General Aſſembly of this national Church, do, in the Terms of the 4th Act of Aſſembly 1720, teſtify and declare that the ſaid is an Elder lawfully ordained, and that he has ſigned the *Formula* preſcribed by the 11th Act of the General Aſſembly 1694; and likewiſe that he is (a Reſidenter in the ſaid Burgh) or (an Heretor in the ſaid Burgh) or (an Heretor in the Bounds of the ſaid Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh lies) or (has formerly reſided and officiated as an Elder in the ſaid Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh doth ly).

ATTESTATION *by the Presbytery.*

At the Day of Years. THE which Day the Presbytery of having had produced before them a Commiſſion given by the Magiſtrates and Town-Council of to to repreſent the ſaid Burgh in the enſuing General Aſſembly of this National Church, with an Atteſtation of the Kirk-Seſſion of the ſaid Burgh, conform to the Direction of the Act 9th of Aſſembly 1718, Act 4th Aſſembly 1720, and Act 4th Aſſembly 1724, do, in Terms of the foreſaid Acts, likewiſe teſtify and declare, that the ſaid is an Elder lawfully ordained, and that he has ſigned the *Formula* preſcribed by the 11th Act of Aſſembly 1694; and likewiſe, that he is (a Reſidenter in the ſaid Burgh) or (an Heretor in the ſaid Burgh) or (an Heretor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh lies) or (has formerly reſided and officiated as an Elder in the ſaid Burgh) or (Preſbytery of within which the ſaid Burgh doth ly); and further, that the ſaid Commiſſioner is every other way

way qnalified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by *A. B.* Moderator.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for managing His Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint Dr Gilbert Hamilton, Minister of the Gospel at *Cramond*, their Moderator, all the Ministers, Members, of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Mr Robert Munro at *Kilmuir*, Mr Donald Frazer at *Urquhart*, Mr Malcolm M'Caskill at *Small Isles*, Mr George Munro at *Farr*, Mr George Trail at *Dunnet*, Mr John Scollay at *St Andrews*, Mr James Hogg at *Linlithgow*, Mr William Dalgleish at *Peebles*, Mr George Redpath at *Stitchill*, Mr John Jolly at *Coldinghame*, Mr James Currie at *Middlebie*, Mr Richard Brown at *Lochmaben*, Mr Nathaniel M'Ghie at *Crossmichael*, Mr William Crombie at *Kirkcudbright*, Mr Andrew Mitchel at *Muirkirk*, Dr James M'Night at *Maybole*, Mr Thomas Maxwell at *Stewarton*, Mr Colin Campbell at *Kilmaronock*, Mr Dougald Allan at *Ilverhavelan*, Mr Robert Thomson at *Killean*, Mr Alexander Duff at *Tippermuir*, Mr Robert Findlay at *Dollar*, Mr Robert Rolland at *Culross*, Mr Alexander Spears at *Abbotshall*, Dr James Blenshall at *Dundee*, Mr Charles Nisbet at *Montrose*, Dr Carlyle at *Inveresk*, Mr John Freebairn at *Dunbarton*, Professor Trail at *Glasgow*, Principal Murison at *St Andrews*, Principal Tullideph ditto, Mr Neil M'Leod at *Kilfinichan*, Mr Donald M'Queen at *Kilmuir*, Mr Alexander Hosack, at *Jura* and *Colonsay*, Ministers; the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Provost James Stewart, Professor Ferguson, Mr Colquhoun Advocate the Procurator, Mr John Chalmers Writer, Mr George Ogilvie, Bailie John Walker, Mr James Wilkie, Mr George Rutherford, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Lord Rollo, Andrew Barclay of *Pittachop*, Lord Stonefield, Sir James

James Colquhoun, Profeſſor Stewart, Dr Robert Findlay, Mr Theodore Edgar, Mr James Dickſon Advocate, Mr William Baillie Advocate, Mr George Wallace Advocate, Mr Alexander Tait, Mr Iſaac Grant Writer, Mr Alexander Orr Writer, Mr Ferguſon younger of Craigdarroch, Mr Alexander Elphinſtone Advocate, Mr Alexander Wight Advocate, Mr M'Dowal of Gallaniſh, Mr John Pringle Advocate, Mr Andrew Croſbie Advocate, Mr Sollicitor Dundas, Mr Bannantyne M'Leod Advocate, Mr William M'Donald Writer, Mr Ilay Campbell Advocate, Mr Archibald Wallace Merchant in Edinburgh, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Aſſembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and Prophaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majeſty's Grant to this Aſſembly. In Proſecution of which Purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts to go to ſuch Places as they ſhall find, upon due Information, to be moſt proper, according to His Majeſty's Deſign expreſſed in his Warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular Regard to ſuch Pariſhes in *South Uiſt*, *Small-Iſles*, *Glenco*, *Harris*, the Countries of *Moidart*, *Glengairie*, and *Lochaber*, and the other Pariſhes of the Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee ſhall find, by Reaſon of their vaſt Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumſtances, to be in the greateſt Diſtreſs: And they ſhall take Care, that the Perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective Offices, of good Abilities for the ſame, of a pious Life and Converſation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to His Majeſty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh Controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the Inſpection of, the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly obſerved by them: And the Preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe; and both they and the Catechiſts to inſtruct the People from Houſe to Houſe, and to viſit the Sick: And, in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws: And the Committee are impowered to give them ſuch Inſtructions, as to their Work and Behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which Inſtructions the Preachers

and

and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard in their Proceedings to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th day of *September* 1730, approven by subsequent Assemblies; and to take Care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers, the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto, in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them; and to direct all their Letters concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of the Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Times mentioned in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also impower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings, and likewise distinct Books of Accompts, how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a *Quorum*, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, that at the Quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the *Quorum*, whereof nine shall be Ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day shall fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places, as

they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a Correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their Advice and Aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and impowered, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for Aſſiſtance and Support in carrying on the Deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do by theſe Preſents nominate and appoint Mr *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the ſame as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the ſaid Committee, and according to their Rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Perſon once employed and inſert in the Scheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that Year, but by the *Quorum* of at leaſt Fourteen, whereof nine to be Miniſters; and in Caſe any Complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the Scheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary Meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and, in the mean Time, the Perſon complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch Complaint, and theſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt Account of the Matter, againſt the next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, ſuch Presbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their Anſwers to theſe Letters, at fartheſt with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt Meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themſelves; and if they cannot compleat it, they ſhall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpoſe, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a ſubſequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as ſoon after the Riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible: And that the ſaid Committee, in making up the Scheme of Miſſionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the Sum in the Grant.

VI. Com-

VI.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders for diſcuſſing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commiſſionate, and appoint the Reverend Dr Gilbert Hamilton Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Cramond*, their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Munro at *Kilmuir*, Mr Thomas Simpſon at *Avoch*, Miniſters; and Profeſſor James Robertſon, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tain*, Mr Joſeph Munro at *Ederton*, Mr George Balfour at *Tarbet*, Miniſters; and David Roſs of *Innerhaſley*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr Donald Fraſer at *Urquhart*, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at *Fotterly*, Miniſters; and Mr Albert Munro of *Coull*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr Malcolm M'Caſkill at *Small Iſles*, Mr Donald M'Queen at *Kilmour*, Miniſters; and Mr John Pringle Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Preſbytery of *Lewis*, Mr Alexander M'Kay at *Barvas*, Miniſter; and Mr Alexander Tait, One of the Principal Clerks of Seſſion, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr James Robertſon at *Lochbroom*, Mr Colin M'Farquhar at *Applecroſs*, Miniſters; and Mr William M'Donald, Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tong*, Mr George Munro at *Farr*, Mr John M'Kay at *Tong*, Miniſters; and Mr John Moſman Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Caithneſs*, Mr George Traill at *Dunnet*, Mr James Nicolſon at *Halkirk* Miniſters; and George Sinclair of *Ulbſter* Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr John Scolay at *St. Andrews* and *Dearneſs*, Mr James Aliſon at *Holm*, Miniſters; and Mr John Haddoway Merchant in *Leith*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Cairſton*, Mr Thomas Hepburn at *Birſay*, Mr Robert Smith at *Firth* and *Stennes*, Miniſters; and Bailie John Walker Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder; From the Presbytery of *North-Iſles*, Mr James Leſly at *Rouſay*, Miniſter; From the

Presbytery

Presbytery of *Zetland*, Mr John Mill at *Dunroſneſs*, Mr James Sands at *Lerwick*, Miniſters; and Patrick Graeme of *Graemeshall*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Profeſſor Hamilton, Dr Patrick Cumming, Mr William Bennet at *Dudingſtone*, Dr Hugh Blair, Dr John Dryſdale, Mr William Lothian, Miniſters; Sir Alexander Dick of *Prieſtfield*, Mr James Balfour of *Pilrig*, and Mr John Tod Merchant in *Leith*, Ruling Elders: From the City of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable the Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, and Conveener Simpſon: From the Church of *Campvere*, the Lord Conſervator: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr Patrick Bennet at *Polmont*, Mr John Atchiſon at *Falkirk*, Mr James Hogg at *Linlithgow*, Mr Robert Wiſhart at *Livingſtone*, Miniſters; Mr William Baillie Advocate, and Baillie Robert Clerk Ruling Elders: From the burgh of *Linlithgow*, Provoſt Henry Gilles: From the burgh of *Queensferry*, Mr Walter Scot Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr John Brown at *Coulter*, Mr Bernard Haldane at *Glenholm*, Mr John Thomſon at *Welſtoun*, Miniſters; and Bailie Robert Forreſter, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr William Dalglieſh at *Peebles*, Mr Thomas Muſchet at *Tweedſmuir*, Miniſters; and the Lord Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the burgh of *Peebles*, Mr Alexander Murray Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr Thomas Turnbull at *Borthwick*, Mr James Primroſe at *Crighton*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at *Invereſk*, Miniſters; and the Lord Preſident, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr James Innes at *Yeſter*; Mr Patrick Carſrae at *Morham*, Mr Henry Sangſter at *Humbie*, Miniſters; and the Lord Coalſton, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Haddington*, John Buchan of *Lethem*, Eſq; From the burgh of *North-Berwick*, Mr John Swinton, *tertius*, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr John Clunie at *White-kirk*, Mr David Spence at *Cocksburn-path*, Miniſters; and George Buchan-Hepburn Eſq; Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the burgh of *Dunbar*, Sir George Suttie; From the Presbytery of *Dunſe*, Mr Andrew Smith at *Langton*, Mr Adam Dickſon at *Dunſe*, Miniſters; and James Dickſon of *Antonſhill*, Eſq; Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnſide*, Mr John Jolly at *Coldingham*, Mr Thomas Tait at *Eymouth*, Miniſters; and Sir John Stewart of *Allan-bank*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelſo*, Mr Robert Turnbull at *Sprouſton*, Mr George Redpath at *Stitchel*, Miniſters; and Mr Sollicitor Dundas, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr Robert Ricalton at *Hope-kirk*, Mr John Cranſton at *Ancrum*, Mr Thomas Somervile at *Minto*, Miniſters; and

Mr

Mr Thomas Turnbull of *Cadgiehill*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Earlſtoun*, Mr John Goudie at *Earlſtoun*, Mr William Gullan at *Legerwood*, Miniſters; and George Rutherford of *Ferntoun*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale*; From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr William Trotter at *Selkirk*, Mr William Brown at *Maxton*, Miniſters; and Lord Alemoor, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr James Currie at *Middlebie*, Mr William Moncrieff at *Annan*, Miniſters; and Mr Alexander Orr Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Langholme*, Mr Andrew Walker at *Canobie*, Mr Robert Rutherford at *Caſtletown*, Miniſters; and Mr John Craigie, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr Richard Brown at *Lochmaben*, Mr John Burges at *Kirkmichael*, Mr William Baron at *Wamphray*, Miniſters; and Theodore Edgar of *Elchieſhields*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lochmaben*, James Mounſey of *Rammarſcales*, Eſq; From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr William Moodie at *Glencairn*, Mr William Keyden at *Penpont*, Miniſters; Alexander Ferguſon, younger of *Craigdarroch*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Sanquhar*, Mr George Clerk Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr Archibald Little at *Irongray*, Mr Philip Moriſon at *Dunſcore*, Mr George Duncan at *Lochrutten*, Miniſters; and Mr Andrew Croſbie Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at *Croſs-michael*, Mr William Donaldſon at *Parton*, Mr William Crombie at *Kirkcudbright*, Miniſters: From the Presbytery of *Wigtoun*, Mr Robert Hunter at *Kirkoen*, Mr Robert Walker at *Mochrum*, Miniſters; and Mr Robert Brounlee Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Wigtoun*, Mr Thomas Halliday Preacher of the Goſpel: From the Burgh of *Whithorn*, James Wilkie of *Rathobyers*, Eſq; From the Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, Mr James M'Culloch at *Kirkcolm*, Mr James Tweddel at Old Luce, Miniſters; and Dr Robert Findlay of *Drummore*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr John Steel at *Stair*, Mr Andrew Mitchell at *Muirkirk*, Dr James M'Night at *Maybole*, Mr Thomas Thomſon at *Dailey*, Mr Thomas Miller at *Old Cumnock*, Miniſters; Mr James Stevenſon-Rogers, Advocate, and Profeſſor Mathew Stewart, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Air*, Mr John Chalmer Writer to the Signet: From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr Gilbert Lang at *Largs*, Mr Thomas Maxwell at *Stewarton*, Mr John Fullerton at *Dalry*, Miniſters; and the Honourable Patrick Boyle, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Paiſley*, Mr David Turner at *Greenock*, Mr

Henry Miller at *Neilſton*, Mr John Schaw at *Greenock*, Mr John Monteith at *Klllellan*, Miniſters; Mr Ilay Campbell Advocate, and Alexander Wilſon of *Glanderſtone*, Ruling Elders: From the Preſbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr William MacCulloch at *Cambuslang*, Mr Alexander Dobie at *Glaſsford*, Mr Michael M'Culloch at *Bothwell*, Miniſters; and James Stewart of *Allanton*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Preſbytery of *Lanark*, Mr James Porteous at *Wintoun*, Mr William Millar at *Crawfurd-John*, Mr James Meek at *Leſmahagow*, Miniſters; and William Wilſon of *Soonhope*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the burgh of *Lanark*, Mr Alex. Wight, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Glaſgow*, Mr William Bell at *Campſie*, Mr Alexander Dun at *Calder*, Mr Thomas Clark at *Eagleſham*, Miniſters; and Archibald Ingram, Eſq; late Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, Ruling Elder: From the city of *Glaſgow*, Provoſt George Murdoch: From the Univerſity of *Glaſgow*, Profeſſor Robert Trail: From the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, Mr Colin Campbell at *Kilmaronock*, Mr James Morriſon at *Strathblane*, Mr John Freebairn at *Dumbarton*, Miniſters; and Sir James Colquhoun of *Luſs*, Ruling Elder: From the burgh of *Dumbarton*, Bailie James Flint: From the Presbytery of *Denoon*, Mr Dugald Allan at *Innerharlen*, Mr James Thorburn at *Kingarth*, Miniſters; and Mr Ballantyne M'Leod, Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr Robert Thomſon at *Killenan*, Mr Archibald M'Neil at *Kilcalmonel*, Miniſters; and Alexander M'Millan of *Dunmore*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr William Campbell at *Kilchrenan*, Mr Donald M'Nicol at *Liſmore*, Miniſters; and Lord Stonefield Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr Kenneth M'Aulay at *Ardnamurchan*, Mr Neil M'Leod at *Kilfenechan*, Miniſters; and Allan MacDougal younger of *Galaniſh*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr Alex. Campbell at *Weem*, Mr James Biſhop at *Kinclivan*, Mr Duncan M'Ara at *Fortingall*, Mr Alexander Small at *Kirkmichael*, Miniſters; Profeſſor Adam Fergusſon, and James-Stewart Fleming Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr David Black at *Perth*, Mr Andrew Williamſon at *Arngosk*, Mr William Taylor at *Rhind*, Mr Alexander Duff at *Tippermuir*, Miniſters; Mr John Swinton, junior, Advocate, and Bailie John Caw, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Perth*, Provoſt William Stewart: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr Robert Finlay at *Dollar*, Mr Robert Ure at *Airth*, Miniſters; and Lord Barjarg Ruling Elder: From the burgh of *Stirling*, Mr Alexander Abercrombie Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr James Porteous at *Monivaird*, Mr Archibald

bald Rennie at *Muckart*, Mr John Scot at *Muthil*, Miniſters; and Lord Rollo Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblain*, Mr John Ferguſon at *Port*, Mr Andrew Turnbull at *Kippen*, Miniſters; and Mr George Wallace Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumfermline*, Mr George Adie at *Carnock*, Mr Robert Rolland at *Culroſs*, Mr David Balfour at *Torryburn*, Miniſters; and Sir George Preſton of Valleyfield Ruling Elder: From the burgh of *Culroſs*, Mr David Ireland: From the Burgh of *Innerkeithing*, Mr Alexander Hart Writer in Edinburgh: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Henry Moir at *Auchtertool*, Mr John Moodie at *Portmoak*, Mr Alexander Spears at *Abbotshall*, Miniſters; and Mr Andrew Balfour Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of Dyſart, Samuel Charteris, Eſq; From the Burgh of *Kinghorn*, James Balmain, Eſq; From the Burgh of *Burntiſland*, Provoſt James Stewart, Edinburgh: From the Presbytery of *Cupar*, Mr Robert Wingate at *Abdie*, Mr William Gourlay at *Fliſk*, Mr Michael Greenlaw at *Criech*, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Miniſters; the Earl of *Leven*, and Andrew Barclay of *Pittachop*, Eſq; Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of St *Andrews*, Principal Muiriſon, Mr John Nairn at *Anſtruther Eaſter*, Mr William Vilant at *Kingsbarns*, Mr Robert Dalglieſh at *Ferrypartoncraigs*, Miniſters; Dr George Haddow, and Mr John M'Naughton, Ruling Elders: From the Univerſity of *St. Andrews*, Principal Tullidaph: From the Burgh of *Anſtruther Eaſter*, James Durham of *Largo*, Eſq; From the Burgh of *Anſtruther Weſter*, William Chalmers of *Radernie*, Eſq; From the Burgh of *Kilrenny*, William Alexander, Eſq; From the Presbytery of *Meigle*, Mr James Thomſon at *Kingoldrum*, Mr John Halyburton at *Ketins*, Mr Thomas Maſſon at *Gleniſla*, Miniſters; and John Murray of *Lintroſe*, Eſq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Mr James Donaldſon at *Glamis*, Mr Andrew Mitchell at *Aberlemno*, Miniſters; and the Earl of *Northesk*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr George Lyon at *Longforgan*, Dr James Blenſhall at *Dundee*, Mr Robert Small at *Dundee*, Miniſters; and Mr William Aliſon Merchant there, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothick*, Mr John Carnagie at *Inverkillor*, Mr Thomas Hunter at *Arbirlot*, Miniſters; and the Honourable Baron Maull Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Aberbrothick*, George Earl of *Dalhouſie*: From the Presbytery of *Brechine* Mr David Blair at *Brechin*, Mr Charles Nisbet at *Montroſe*, Mr Daniel Bryce at *Logieport*, Miniſters: From the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, Mr Robert Young at *Benholm*, Mr Alexander

ander Shank at *Eccleſgrieg*, Mr John Hutchiſon at *Fettereſſo*, Miniſters; and Mr William Galloway Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Mr William Duff at *Petterculture*, Mr Gavin Mitchell at *Kingclear*, Dr Alexander Gerrard, Mr Alexander Temple at *Dyce*, Miniſters; Provoſt George Shand, and Sir James Cockburn, Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kincardine Oniel*, Mr Robert Michie at *Clunie*, Mr John Ramſay at *Strathaen*, Mr William Morris at *Lumphanan*, Miniſters; and Sir Arthur Forbes of *Craigyvar*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr James Gordon at *Cabrach*, Mr James M'William at *Kildrummie*, Mr Robert Findlay at *Clat*, Miniſters: From the Presbytery of *Garrioch*, Mr Alexander Stewart at *Leſly*, Mr James Hay at *Inverury*, Mr George Adams at *Kintore*, Miniſters; and the Procurator, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kintore*, Alexander Elphingſton of *Glack*, Eſq; Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Deer*, Mr Andrew Youngſon at *Aberdour*, Mr William Cumine at *Tyrie*, Mr George Moir at *Peterhead*, Miniſters; and John Gordon of *Buthlaw*, Eſq; Advocate Ruling Elder: From the Prsbytery of *Fordyce*, Mr James Dunbar at *Boyndie*, Mr Robert Ogilvie at *Ordiquhil*, Miniſters; and Mr John Robertſon Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Cullen*, George Ogilvie Eſq; From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr John Brown at *Rynie*, Mr John Cooper at *Glaſs*, Miniſters; and Mr Coſmo Gordon Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at *Inveraven*, Mr James Thomſon at *Aberlour*, Miniſters; and Mr Iſaac Grant Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr William Blair at *Kinguiſe*, Mr Patrick Grant at *Cromdale*, Miniſters; and Dr Gregory Grant, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of Elgin, Mr Robert Paterſon at *New Spynie*, Mr Joſeph Anderſon at *Birnie*, Miniſters; and Mr Archibald Wallace Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forres*, Mr Æneas Shaw at *Forres*, Mr Duncan Shaw at *Bafford*, Miniſters; and Profeſſor Cuming at *Glaſgow*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Forres*, Mr James Colquhoun Advocate; and the Aſſembly added, the Honourable Charles Hope Weir of Craigiehall Eſq; To be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the Effect after-mentioned; with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof Twenty-one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-houſe at *Edinburgh*, the firſt Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon;

Forenoon; and thereafter, the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likeways, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force, till disapproven by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith;* and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likeways to take Care that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government thereof, be correct: and give Directions about printing the same. And the Commis-

ſioners are appointed and impowered to keep a Correſpondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, for ſupreſſing Popery and Superſtition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in theſe Parts, and give Aſſiſtance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and ſpeedy Redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the ſame; declaing, that in, and for all their Actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the Acts of the General Aſſemblies 1712, and 1719, reſpecting the Application of the public Money; which two Acts are printed among the Acts of Aſſembly 1761. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and Abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Aſſembly held in the Year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the Members of theſe Presbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required all of them to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Diſtance, who have four or more Members on the Commiſſion, are to take Care, that at leaſt two of them attend each Diet of the ſame; and the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt Meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the Cauſes and Queſtions relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are, or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery, or Synod of this Church, ſhall decline to comply with the Sentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full Execution, in that Caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent Meeting, as has been

ſometimes

ſometimes the Practice ; but ſhall allow the ſame to ly over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Presbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their Reaſons for the ſame. And the Aſſembly doth further impower and direct the ſaid Commiſſion, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redreſs of the Grievance of Patronage, in caſe a favourable Opportunity for ſo doing ſhall occur during the Subſiſtence of this Commiſſion. And that in paſſing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th Act of the Aſſembly 1736.

VII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place on *Thurſday* the Eighteenth day of *May*, in the Year One Thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-nine.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

Former

Former Overtures again tranſmitted.

UPON Report being made from the Committee for Overtures, concerning Overtures tranſmitted by the laſt and preceding Aſſemblies, the General Aſſembly agreed that all theſe be again tranſmitted; and do hereby appoint, that ſuch Presbyteries as have not yet ſent up their Opinions concerning them, do ſend up the ſame to the next General Aſſembly. The Overtures are theſe: 1*mo*, Anent ſending up Opinions on Overtures tranſmitted by the Aſſembly. 2*do* For repealing that Part of the Form of Proceſſes anent Exculpation. 3*tio*, Anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Cauſes appealed from them; and that the Report concerning them be brought into an earlier Diet of the Aſſembly.

Table

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Index or Abridgment

OF THE

Actings and Proceedings of the General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1768, which are not printed at full Length.

May 19. 1768, *Seſſ.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Mr James Muiriſon, Principal of the New College of St *Andrews*, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders, conveened in the Aſſembly-Houſe in the uſual Manner; and after Prayer by the ſaid Mr James Muiriſon, a Letter was preſented to the Moderator from Mr James Edmonſton Sub-Clerk of Aſſembly, begging that the Aſſembly would excuſe his Non-attendance, in Regard he was confined by Indiſpoſition; and recommending George Cairncroſs Writer in *Edinburgh*, as a proper Perſon to officiate for him; which having been conſidered by the Aſſembly, they ſuſtained Mr Edmonſton's Excuſe, and appointed Mr Cairncroſs to officiate in his Place. Thereafter Dr Gilbert Hamilton, Miniſter of the Goſpel at Cramond, being choſen Moderator, he, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the Chair.

The King's Commiſſion to John Earl of *Glaſgow*, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, read, and recorded.

The King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly read, and recorded.

The Commiſſioner's Speech at opening this Aſſembly; and the Moderator's Speech in Return thereto.

His Majeſty's Royal Warrant for *L.* 1000 *Sterling* delivered in to the Aſſembly by his Grace the Commiſſioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

A Committee named for reviſing the Commiſſion to the Members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring Abſents from the Diets thereof; naming Miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner; receiving in Liſts of Probationers

Probationers in the ſeveral Preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for Overtures named.

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals named.

May 20. 1768, *Seſſ.* 2.

A Diet ſpent in Prayer.

The Act 7th of the Aſſembly 1718, for the better Diſpatch of the Buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the Obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.

May 21. 1768, *Seſſ.* 3.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Draught of an Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's Requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Report of the Committee for reviſing Commiſſions, having paſſed the Committee for Overtures, was called for and read. The General Aſſembly having heard the ſaid report, rejected the Commiſſion from the Univerſity of *Edinburgh* to Principal Robertſon, the Minute of his Election being informal: As alſo the Commiſſion from the Presbytery of *Elgin*, to Mr Archibald Wallace Merchant in *Edinburgh*, as their Ruling Elder, the Minute of Subſtitution of his Election being likeways informal.

Upon an Overture from the Committee for Overtures, the General Aſſembly named Mr Thomas Turnbull Miniſter at *Borthwick*, and Mr John Gowdie Miniſter at *Earlſtoun*, to aſſiſt the Clerk of Aſſembly in bringing together into one Act, the forms of Commiſſions and Atteſtations preſcribed by the Aſſembly 1766, with the Supplement made to them by the Aſſembly 1767.

The Roll of Cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for Bills, called for, produced, and read over.

There was produced and read, a Petition for Meſſrs. Joſeph Williamſon, John Dalrymple, and Alexander Bruce, Advocates, craving, that the Aſſembly would order a Roll of the private Cauſes, to be made up, and affixed upon ſome publick Place, as that would tend greatly to the Diſpatch of Buſineſs; which having been conſidered by the Aſſembly, they appointed their Committee for Bills, to draw up this Evening at their Meeting, the Order of private Cauſes, and to report; the Aſſembly reſerving to themſelves

ſelves a Power of making what Alterations they may think proper.

Reſolve anent taking in Cauſes.

A Committee named to reviſe the Synod-Book of *Roſs*.

A Committee named to reviſe the Synod-Book of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*.

The Synod-Books of *Glenelg*, *Sutherland* and *Caithneſs*, *Orkney*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow* and *Ayr*, *Argyle*, *Perth and Stirling*, *Fyfe*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen* and *Murray*, not being brought up to this Aſſembly, reſolved that the Reaſons thereof be inquired into.

A Committee named to reviſe the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, audite the Procurator and Agents Accompts; conſider the State of the public Money, and prepare Overtures about the ſame.

A Committee named to reviſe the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee named by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

The Committee for Overtures impowered to receive in from the ſeveral Members, any Inſtructions given to them by their reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Aſſembly; and receive in, and conſider any Accounts that ſhall be given them of the State of the Church in the North Highlands; particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superſtition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

A Petition, Complaint, and Appeal, for his Grace George-James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, and his Tutors; and Mr Laurence Wells againſt the Preſbytery of Hamilton, for a Sentence pronounced by them, delaying to proceed to the Settlement of the ſaid Mr Laurence Wells, his Grace's Preſentee; and againſt Mr Robert Park Miniſter at *Old Monkland*, who had been appointed by laſt Aſſembly to ſerve Mr Wells's Edict, but had not done it, *heard*. The General Aſſembly again appointed the ſaid Mr Robert Park, to repair to the Church of *Shotts* To-morrow, being the 22d Inſtant, and there to ſerve the Edict of the ſaid Mr Laurence Wells, and to report concerning his having done ſo to the General Aſſembly at their Meeting on *Monday* next, returning the Edict duly executed and indorſed: And the Presbytery of *Hamilton* is appointed to meet at the Kirk of *Shotts*, upon *Wedneſ-*

day next the 25th Inſtant, at 11 o'Clock Forenoon; and in Caſe of no Objections being offered againſt the Life or Doctrine of the ſaid Mr Laurence Wells, and then found relevant, and inſtantly verified, that they furthwith proceed to ordain and admit him as Miniſter of the Church and Pariſh of *Shotts*; and continued the Appointment of laſt Aſſembly, upon Mr Michael M'Culloch Miniſter at *Bothwell*, to preach and preſide at the Ordination and Admiſſion of the ſaid Mr Wells; and all the Members of the Preſbytery are required to be preſent at the ſaid Meeting. And further, that they attend the General Aſſembly upon *Friday* next the 27th Inſtant, to give an Account of their Conduct; and appointed Orders to be ſent *per* Expreſs to all the Members of the Preſbytery, excepting thoſe who had preſented themſelves at the Bar of the Aſſembly, for the Purpoſe above mentioned; and the Clerk was ordered to deliver to Mr Park an Extract of this Sentence, in ſo far as related to him, immediately upon riſing of this Diet. And the Miniſters of the Presbytery preſent, were by the Moderator ſummoned *apud acta*, to attend the Meeting of the Presbytery for the Ordination at *Shotts* upon *Wedneſday* next, and to attend the Aſſembly upon *Friday* next, to report concerning their Conduct.

May 23. 1768, *Seſſ.* 4.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Clerk reported, that according to Appointment, he had, immediately upon the diſmiſſing of the Aſſembly on *Saturday*, given to Mr Park an Extract of the Appointment laid upon him to ſerve the Edict of Mr Wells, with the form thereof, That he had wrote Letters to all the Miniſters of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, except thoſe who were preſent at the Aſſembly, and ſummoned *apud acta*, ſignifying to them the Orders of Aſſembly: That as he had no way of coming at the Knowledge of the Elders who were preſent Members of that Presbytery, he had in each of the Letters to the Miniſters, incloſed one for an Elder, deſiring the Miniſter to direct and ſend it to his Elder; and that with the Bearer of theſe Letters, he had ſent two Perſons to be Witneſſes to his delivering them to the Miniſters perſonally, or at their Dwelling-houſes. The General Aſſembly approved of what the Clerk had done.

The General Aſſembly called for the Report of Mr Robert Park, who appearing perſonally at the Bar, repreſented what he had done in Obedience to the Aſſembly's Appointment, of ſerving Mr Wells's Edict at *Shotts*. The Aſſembly appointed

appointed him to retire, and write a Narrative of what he had done.

The Roll of Cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for Bills, called for, produced, and read over, with the Order in which the Committee propoſed the Cauſes ſhould be brought before the Aſſembly. The General Aſſembly appointed the Cauſe, Mr George Trail *contra* Mr Thomas Lyel, to be heard on *Thurſday* firſt; and approved of the claſſing of the reſt of the Cauſes by the ſaid Committee, and ordered Rolls thereof to be affixed upon the Doors of the Aſſembly Iſle.

An Appeal of George Cockburn-Haldan of *Gleneagles*, Eſq; and other Callers of Mr Patrick Crichton, the Crown's Preſentee, to be Miniſter of *Glendovan*, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, the 5th Day of *April* laſt, finding there was no Call before them for Mr Crichton, and therefore could not proceed to his Settlement as Miniſter of *Glendovan*, and affirmed by the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, heard; and the Sentences of the Presbytery and Synod affirmed.

Mr Park gave in Mr Wells's Edict, with his Execution of Service on the back. The General Aſſembly ſuſtained the Edict as ſerved; ordered an Extract thereof to be given to Mr Park, and appointed him to lay the ſame before the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, at their Meeting at *Shotts* on *Wedneſday* next; and delayed the Conſideration of the paſt Conduct of Mr Park, and of the Presbytery, until they make their Report on *Friday*.

May 24. 1768, *Seſſ.* 5.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Clerk reported, that of the Letters deſigned for the Miniſters of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, informing them of the Orders of the Aſſembly as to the ſettling of Mr Wells, he had delivered a Letter to Mr Riſk, one of the Miniſters of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, incloſing one to his Ruling Elder; and had alſo ſent another Letter to Mr Baillie, another of the Miniſters of that Presbytery, to his Lodgings in *Edinburgh*.

The Synod Book of *Perth* and *Stirling* produced, and a Committee named to reviſe the ſame.

Mr David Black at *Perth*, who had been appointed to preach before his Grace next *Sunday*, excuſed on account of his want of Health; and Mr William Lothian, one of the Miniſters in the *Canongate*, appointed to preach in his ſtead.

Upon

Upon a Letter to the Moderator from Mr Michael M'Culloch, who had been appointed to preach and preſide at the Ordination of Mr Wells to-morrow, repreſenting his bad State of Health, and incloſing an Atteſtation to that Purpoſe, under the Hand of Dr M'Farlane, Mr M'Culloch is excuſed from that Service; and the Presbytery *of Hamilton* is ordained at their Meeting at *Shotts* To-morrow, to chuſe one of their Number then preſent, to preſide in the Ordination, ſo as the ſame may be performed that Day; and renewed the Appointment upon the ſaid Preſbytery to report on *Friday* next, concerning their Obedience to the Orders of the Aſſembly; and appointed the Clerk to ſend an Extract hereof in a Letter directed to the Presbytery.

Upon a Report from the Committee for Overtures, bearing, there being a good many Alterations and Amendments propoſed by Presbyteries of the Overture, tranſmitted by laſt Aſſembly, concerning the licenſing of Probationers, the Committee overtured to the Aſſembly, that they would appoint a ſpecial Committee to conſider theſe propoſed Alterations and Amendments, and compare them with the Overture itſelf, and from theſe to prepare a new Draught of the Overture to be laid before next General Aſſembly; which having been conſidered by the Aſſembly, they named a Committee accordingly for this Purpoſe, and authoriſed them to adjourn and ſubcommit.

The Committee further reported, that there were Overtures from a conſiderable Number of Synods and Presbyteries, propoſing Application to be made to King and Parliament, for Relief to the Miniſters of *Scotland* from the Window Tax; and moved, that the Aſſembly would authoriſe the Committee, or their Subcommittee, to call for ſuch Letters, or Papers, on this Subject, as were before the Committee on the Window Tax, appointed by former Aſſemblies, as theſe might be of Uſe to them in their Deliberations on this Matter. Which Motion having been conſidered by the Aſſembly, they agreed thereto, and authoriſed accordingly.

An Appeal of Sir John Stuart of *Allanbank*, Bart. Patron of the Pariſh of St *Ninians*, and ſeveral Heretors in the ſaid Pariſh, concurring in a Call to Mr David Thomſon Miniſter at *Gargunnock*, to be Miniſter at St *Ninians*, from ſundry Sentences of the Presbytery of *Stirling*, finding there was no ſufficient Call before them for Mr Thomſon, and therefore could not proceed to his Settlement as Miniſter

ſter of St *Ninian*'s, and affirmed by the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, heard, and the Sentences of the Presbytery and Synod affirmed.

May 25. 1768. *Seſſ.* 6.

A Reference from the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, anent the Presbytery of *Peebles*, and Dr *David Dickſon*, heard, the General Aſſembly, after long Reaſoning upon this Affair, appointed a Committee, conſiſting of ſome Members out of every Synod, to conſider this Matter, and report to the Aſſembly on *Friday* or *Saturday* at fartheſt.

May 26. 1768. *Seſſ.* 7.

New Commiſſions.

The Viſitors of the Synod Book of *Roſs*, formerly named by this Aſſembly, not being preſent, the General Aſſembly appointed Mr John Brown at *Coulter*, Mr Bernard Haldane at *Glenholm*, Miniſters, and Mr John Moſman Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder, to reviſe the ſame.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures, being called for, the ſame was given in and read, bearing, that the General Aſſembly would take into their Conſideration the Grievances felt from the rigorous Uſe of the Law of Patronage; that they would appoint a Committee of their Number to correſpond with the landed intereſt and Royal Burghs of *Scotland*, and the ſeveral Presbyteries of this Church, to collect their Sentiments concerning theſe Grievances, and the proper Meaſures which ought to be taken for the Purpoſe of relieving the Church from them; and how far it is proper to apply to the Legiſlature for a Repeal of the Law itſelf, and to report to next Aſſembly. Which being conſidered by the General Aſſembly, they appointed the ſame to be taken under Conſideration on *Saturday* next.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Commiſſion-Book given in and read, and the Commiſſion's Conduct approven of. The Aſſembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commiſſion for their Faithfulneſs and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them, and their Book ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Committee named to conſider Applications for Shares of the public Money, given in and read. The Aſſembly appointed as follows:

That *L.* 10 *Sterling*, allowed Mr James Biſhop, by laſt Aſſembly, for defraying the Expence of a Proceſs between Mr

Mercer of *Aldie*, and him, anent his Graſs, *&c.* ſhould be inſtantly paid him.

The Sum of *L.* 20 *Sterling*, agreed to be given Mr James Gordon Miniſter at *Cabrach*, for defraying the Expence of a Proceſs he is preſently engaged in with the Duke of Gordon, anent a Privilege of Paſture on the Commonty of *Kirktown*.

The Sum of *L.* 10 *Sterling*, agreed to be given Mr Algernoon Gordon Miniſter at *Tullineſle*, for enabling him to carry on a Proceſs of Valuation of his ſmall Teinds.

The ſaid two Perſons laſt-mentioned, to be placed as Creditors upon rhe public Fund for the particular Sums abovementioned, to become due to them after the debts that are already contracted ſhall be cleared.

The Committee further reported, that there were ſix other Applications, which had not been laid before the Procurator in Terms of the Order of Aſſembly ; therefore they could not give any Opinion upon theſe.

The Procurator repreſented, as to the Petition from the Presbytery of *Garioch*, anent Building a Kirk, Manſe, *&c.* in the Pariſhes of *Keithall* and *Kintore*, that he did not chooſe to give any Opinion thereon, in Reſpect of his Intereſt as being a Member from that Presbytery. The Aſſembly remitted the Conſideration of this Petition to the Committee.

A Committee named to conſider of a Method to redreſs the Diſturbance and Inconvenience which Members often ſuffer from Crouds of People being let into the Aſſembly Houſe before the Members themſelves.

A Motion being made by Mr James Gordon at *Cabrach*, ſetting forth, That he had already expended *L.* 6 *Sterling* upon his Proceſs, and craving, that the ſaid *L.* 6 ſhould be given him inſtantly. The Aſſembly ordered that Sum to be inſtantly given him.

The Procurator and Agent's Accompts produced, and ordered to ly on the Table till another Dyet.

The Members of the ſeveral Synods appointed to meet among themſelves, in Order to bring in a Liſt of the Nominators of the Commiſſion, according to the 6th Act of Aſſembly 1705.

The Report of the Committee appointed to conſider the Affair of Dr Dickſon, and the Presbytery of *Peebles* called for and produced. The General Aſſembly reſolved to proceed upon it To-morrow, if Time for it, after having firſt conſidered the Conduct of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*.

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The Cauſe Mr George Traill againſt Mr Thomas Lyell being fully heard by their Counſel at the Bar, the General Aſſembly conſidering that the Day was far ſpent, delayed the deliberating and giving Judgment on this Cauſe till To-morrow.

May 27. 1768, *Seſſ.* 8.

The Committee appointed Yeſterday to conſider of the Order of the Houſe, and the better Accommodation of Members impowered to treat with the Magiſtrates of *Edinburgh* anent the Place of Meeting of the Aſſembly, and to report to next Aſſembly.

The Report of the Committees named by laſt Aſſembly to conſider the *Enzie* Fund, being called for, the ſame was given in and read, the General Aſſembly renewed the Powers of that Committee, and added the Moderator of this Aſſembly, Profeſſor Hamilton, and Dr Dryſdale; appointed them to meet at the riſing of this Sederunt, with Power to adjourn, and to report to next Aſſembly.

A Motion was made by the Procurator, that a Bond ſhould be taken for ſo much of that Fund, which he at Preſent had only a Bill for, and that the Bond ſhould be lodged with the Clerks of Aſſembly. The General Aſſembly agreed to the Motion, and ordered the Bill to be changed into a Bond, and lodged with the Clerk's accordingly.

The Report of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly to conſider on a Method of ſettling Pariſhes when the Right falls into the Hands of the Preſbytery, being called for, the ſame was given in and read; and it having been moved, that the Act 1732, ſhould be tranſmitted to Preſbyteries as an Overture; the Aſſembly agreed that this Motion ſhould ly upon the Table.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Royal Bounty Regiſter given in and read. The Conduct of the Managers approven of, and the Book ordered to be atteſted.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, with the Commiſſion and Inſtructions to them.

Upon a Motion, the General Aſſembly agreed that all Commiſſions from Presbyteries, Burghs, or Univerſities, that ſhould be given in after the firſt *Monday* of Aſſembly, ſhould be read out in Aſſembly by the Clerks, as they are given in.

The General Aſſembly called for the Report of the Preſbytery of *Hamilton*, concerning their Obedience to the Appointments of this Aſſembly as to the Settlement of Mr Laurence Wells as Miniſter at *Shots*, ſundry of the Members

Members appeared at the Bar, and Mr Risk the Presbytery Clerk gave in a written Report, which was read. The General Assembly, upon considering the said Report, appointed the Presbytery of *Hamilton* to meet at *Shotts* upon *Thursday* next at 12 o'Clock at Noon; and in Case of no Objections against the Life and Doctrine of Mr Wells being then found relevant, and instantly proven, should forthwith proceed to his Ordination and Admission as Minister of the Church and Parish of *Shotts*; and that the Presbytery should name one of their own Number to preside in the Ordination; and the Lord Advocate being applied to by the Assembly, was pleased to undertake that they should have the Aid of the civil Power to protect them in executing this Appointment; but in case the Presbytery should meet with such Resistance as might render it impracticable for them to proceed to the Ordination that Day; the General Assembly appointed them to meet for this Purpose that Day se'nnight, and then to fulfil this Appointment, and all the Members are required to attend at the said Ordination; and the Presbytery shall make Report concerning their Obedience to this Appointment to the Commission in *August*; or failing a *Quorum* then, to any of the subsequent Diets of the Commission, who are impowered to provide for the full Execution of this Sentence; or, in Case of no Meeting of the Commission, the Presbytery are appointed to report to the next General Assembly. The Presbytery was called in, and this Sentence intimated to them; and the Moderator summoned them *apud acta*, to attend at *Shotts* on *Thursday* next for executing this Appointment. The General Assembly continued the Consideration of the Conduct of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, till they make their Report as above required.

The General Assembly next agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to meet this Evening at six o'Clock, to consider the Cause, Mr George Trail *contra* Mr Thomas Lyell.

May 28. 1768. *Sess.* 9.

Letters of Excuse were produced from Mr M'Culloch at *Cambuslang* and Mr Henderson at *Blantyre*, for their not having obeyed the Appointment of the Assembly on *Saturday* last, and sustained by the Assembly.

The General Assembly again called for the Report of the Committee appointed to consider Applications for Shares of the public Money, the same was given in and read, and having

having been considered by the Assembly, they appointed as fellows, *viz.*

That Mr Matthew M'Caskell be allowed *L.* 20 *Sterling*, in respect of the Procurator's Opinion now signified to the Assembly, and ranked on the Fund accordingly, to enable him to carry on a Process of Augmentation.

That as to the Memorial from the Presbytery of *Garioch*, the General Assembly, upon hearing the Procurator's Opinion, granted the Desire thereof, and appointed the Procurator and Agent accordingly.

That as to the Petition of Mrs Nisbet, the General Assembly renewed the Appointment of last Assembly upon the several Synods appointed to make a Collection for her, and earnestly recommended to them to follow it furth.

That as to the Petition of Mr Gilbert Robertson, craving the Expence of a Process of Augmentation at his Instance against his Heretors, the Assembly appointed his Accompts to be laid before the Procurator and Agent for the Church, who, upon examining them, and finding them properly stated, are empowered to give him instantly a Sum not exceeding *L.* 40 *Sterling*.

And as to the Petitions of Mr James Gordon, and Mr Algernoon Gordon, the Assembly further recommends them to the Procurator and Agent for the Church.

The Report of the Trustees for the Widows Fund was given in, and ordered to ly upon the table till another Diet.

Act approving the Accompt of Mr David Dalrymple Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging him and his Cautioners of the Sum of *L.* 878 : 12 : $5\frac{2}{3}$ *Sterling*, excepting a Balance of *L.* 397 : 14 : $4\frac{2}{3}$ in his hands, which he is to charge himself with in his next Accompt.

Act approving the Accompt of James Edmonstone Agent for the Church, and Sub-Clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that he debit himself in his next accompt for the Sum of *L.* 53 : 4 : 7 *Sterling*, being the Balance in his hands.

Act approving of the Accompt of William Miller Bookseller, for Stationary Ware, furnished for the Use of the Church, and ordering Payment of the Sum of *L.* 5 : 9 : 4 *Sterling* accordingly.

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee of the whole House on the Cause of Mr George Trail against Mr Thomas Lyel, the same was given in and read. The General Assembly, after Prayer, deposed the said Mr Thomas Lyel from the Office of the Holy Ministry, pro-

hibiting and discharging him to exercise the same, or any Part thereof, in all Time coming, and ordered an Extract of this Sentence to be sent to the Presbytery, that they cause intimate the same from the Pulpit of *Lady* Parish.

The General Assembly, upon considering the Overture respecting the Law of Patronage, pursuant to their Resolution of Thursday last, appointed a Committee for the Purpose mentioned in the Overture, who are to meet at the rising of this *sederunt*, and Impowered to adjourn.

The Moderator in the Assembly's Name, returned thanks to the Lord Advocate, for his good offices in obtaining Relief to the Ministers of this Church, from the Arrears of the Window-Tax.

The General Assembly called for the Report of their Committee, appointed to consider the Reference, by the synod of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, anent Dr Dickson and the Presbytery of *Peebles*, which was given in and read: And the Assembly having considered this whole matter, with the said Original minutes of the Presbytery of *Peebles*, and their Register or Book, now attested and signed by the Moderators of the Presbytery for several years past, as also Revised, Approved, and Attested by the synod of *Lothian* and *Tweedale*, and considering also what appears from the report of their Committee, consisting of Members from all the several synods, to be the practice and method in which the minutes and records of the Judicatories, superior, as well as inferior of this Church, have always been kept; They did unanimously, and hereby do find and declare, that the said Mr David Dickson was upon the 22d of *April* 1767, deposed by the Presbytery of *Peebles*, and does now accordingly stand deposed from the office of the Holy Ministry, and that the Parish of *Newlands* is vacant; and in case the said Dr Dickson shall hereafter give a Charge to the heretors of the Parish of *Newlands*, for the payment of Stipend to him, the General Assembly appoints the Procurator for the Church, to appear for the Interest of the Church in that matter.

May 30. 1768. *Sess. ult.*

Dr Dickson compeared at the bar, and offered what he called a Protest, which the Assembly prohibited the Clerk to receive.

The Consideration of the petition for Mr Alexander Hosack delayed untill the procurator came to the house.

The Clerk having produced a new draught of an Act respecting the Forms of Commissions and Attestations.

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The General Assembly approved of the said draught, and ordered the same to be printed along with the Acts of this Assembly.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures being called for, there was produced a Report of their Sub-Committee, that had been appointed to class the Returns from Presbyteries to Overtures that had been transmitted to them, from which it appeared, that the State of the Returns respecting the three Overtures transmitted by several former Assemblies, was almost the same as last year. The General Assembly agreed to transmitt these Overtures again to such Presbyteries as had not made any Returns, that they may send up their Opinions thereupon, to the next General Assembly.

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing up Instructions to them, brought in and approven.

The Synod Book of *Ross* attested; and recommends to that Synod to be more careful in bringing up their Register.

The Synod Book of *Perth* and *Stirling* attested.

The Synod Book of *Merse* and *Teviotdale* produced, and a Committee named to revise the same, and to report to the Commission.

The General Assembly ordered all the Synod Books that had not been brought up to this Assembly, to be brought up to next Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the Accounts of Mr George Trail, and report to next General Assembly.

The General Assembly resumed the Consideration of Mr Hosack's Petition, and the Procurator being heard upon the Merits of said Petition, they gave a discretionary Power to him, to give Mr Hosack other L. 10 if he should think it necessary.

The Report of the Trustees, for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, *&c.* containing a State of the Fund and their Management; and an Account of their proceedings since last Assembly, being called for, was read and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kep't for that purpose.

The report of the Committee on the Window Tax being called for, was given in and read: Bearing, That no further Relief was to be had, but by an Application to Parliament. The General Assembly having considered this Matter, agreed that it was not a proper Time for making an Application

cation to Parliament at preſent, but continued the Committee formerly named on this Subject, and added to that Committee, ſundry Members of the preſent Aſſembly, and all the Miniſters of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, together with Mr John Douglas Miniſter at *Jedburgh*; and impowered ſaid Committee to attend to a proper Opportunity, and as ſoon as this ſhall offer, to make an Application to Parliament, in order to be relieved from ſaid Tax, *&c.*

Liſt of Probationers produced and ordered to be recorded.

The Salary to be allowed Dr Gordon the Churches agent at London, remitted to the Conſideration of the Procurator, and *Mr* Alexander Wight Advocate; and they are appointed to report to next Aſſembly.

All Cauſes brought before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commiſſion.

Proteſtations admitted.

A Committee named to reviſe the Minutes of the Aſſembly's Proceedings, at this and all other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding Rules, in order to their being printed.

The *Moderator's* Speech to the Aſſembly, and his *Majeſty's* Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's Speech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing the next *Meeting* of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with Prayer and Singing of Pſalms.

FINIS.